

9. A radio communication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said control unit restores said at least one default threshold upon successful transfer of said call to another base station.

10. A radio communication system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising selecting means for enabling a user to selectively inhibit changing of a default threshold by said control unit.

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11. A radio communication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein a predetermined inhibit time is set which must elapse after an unsuccessful handover operation before another handover operation may be started, and said control unit increases said predetermined inhibit time when said handover operation fails to transfer said call to another base station.

12. A radio communication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said control unit accepts an instruction from a user to inhibit a handover operation regardless of the result of comparison of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value with said thresholds.

13. A radio communication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said control unit accepts an instruction from a user to execute a handover operation regardless of the result of comparison of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value with said thresholds.

14. A method for controlling transfer of a radio communication signal of a call to a radio communication apparatus from one base station to another base station, comprising the steps of:

measuring a field intensity level and a circuit quality value of a radio communication signal of a call received from said one base station;

comparing either or both of the measured field intensity level and circuit quality value with respective predefined thresholds;

commencing a handover operation to transfer said call to another base station if at least one of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value is below its respective threshold, and at least a default inhibit time has passed since a last handover operation; and

when said handover operation fails to transfer said call to another base station, increasing said default inhibit time.

15. A method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising the step of restoring said default inhibit time upon successful transfer of said call to another base station.

16. A method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising the step of inhibiting changes to said default inhibit time in response to an instruction of a user.

17. A method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising the step of lowering at least one of said thresholds when said handover operation fails to transfer said call to another base station.

18. A method for controlling transfer of a radio communication signal of a call to a radio communication apparatus from one base station to another base station, comprising the steps of:

measuring a field intensity level and a circuit quality value of a radio communication signal of a call received from said one base station;

comparing either or both of the measured field intensity level and circuit quality value with respective predefined thresholds;

commencing a handover operation to transfer said call to another base station if at least one of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value is below its respective threshold, and at least a default inhibit time has passed since a last handover operation;

determining when said handover operation occurs more than a predefined number of times in a predefined period of time; and

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when said handover operation occurs more than said predefined number of times within a predefined period of time, lowering at least one of said thresholds.

19. A method for controlling transfer of a radio communication signal of a call to a radio communication apparatus from one base station to another base station, comprising the steps of:

measuring a field intensity level and a circuit quality value of a radio communication signal of a call received from said one base station;

comparing either or both of the measured field intensity level and circuit quality value with respective predefined thresholds;

commencing a handover operation to transfer said call to another base station if at least one of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value is below its respective threshold; and

when said handover operation fails to transfer said call to another base station, lowering at least one of said thresholds.

20. A method as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the step of restoring said at least one default threshold upon successful transfer of said call to another base station.

21. A method as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the step of enabling a user to selectively inhibit changing of a default threshold.

22. A method as set forth in claim 19, wherein a predetermined inhibit time is set which must elapse after an unsuccessful handover operation before another handover operation may be started, and further comprising the step of increasing said predetermined inhibit time when said handover operation fails to transfer said call to another base station.

23. A method as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the step of accepting an instruction from a user to inhibit a handover operation regardless of the result of

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comparison of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value with said thresholds.

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*Concluded* 24. A method as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the step of accepting an instruction from a user to execute a handover operation regardless of the result of comparison of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value with said thresholds.

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### REMARKS

Claims 8-24 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-7 have been cancelled, and new claims 8-24 have been added. Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Balachandran, U.S. Patent No. 5,594,943 is respectfully traversed to the extent that this ground of rejection may be applied to claims 8-24 now pending.

Balachandran discloses a method for handoff operations between base stations for mobile communication unit calls, wherein the method includes a threshold adjustment mode (Fig. 21). The handoff mode is shown in Fig. 20. According to the handoff procedure, if a new channel has successfully been acquired in Step 2005, the threshold levels are immediately checked in Step 2015. If the threshold levels are violated by the new channel (which has been successfully acquired), the procedure again attempts to acquire the same channel for n more times (Step 2019). If the acquired channel repeatedly violates the threshold levels after n attempts, only then is the adjust threshold mode entered (Step 2021). Thus, Balachandran does not teach the adjust of a threshold when a handoff operation fails to transfer a call to another base station, as in the present invention, but instead adjusts a threshold when the newly acquired channel fails to meet the established threshold levels after a number of attempts to acquire it.

Balachandran fails to disclose a radio communication system having a control unit which compares either or both of a measured field intensity level and circuit quality value with respective predefined default thresholds, sends a handover instruction to a